

Office International des Epizooties (OIE)

The OIE is the World Health Organization's Programme for animal health and is the second of three international health organizations that promulgate standards, which when conformed with, can provide a legal safe harbor in cases of World Trade Organization trade disputes. The OIE was established in 1924 by 28 countries and now has 178 member countries. The mission of the OIE is to inform governments of the occurrence and course of animal diseases globally, and the methods which can be implemented to control such diseases. The organization also coordinates international studies for surveillance and control of animal diseases and harmonizes regulations for trade in animals and animal products among member countries.

The Fish Diseases Commission is one of four OIE Specialist Commissions. The role of Specialist Commissions is to study specific problems relating to the epidemiology and control of certain diseases or groups of diseases. The Fish Diseases Commission was created in 1960. One of the reasons for establishing the Fish Diseases Commission was the increasing awareness of the importance of international trade in fish and other aquatic animals, which in recent years has grown considerably.

Web address: <http://www.oie.int/>